

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 10225 241026Z  
ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 CU-02 IGA-01 SS-14 /029 W  
-----030834 241302Z /47

R 240847Z AUG 77  
FM AMCONGEN HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6427

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10225

LIMDIS

FOR AID/AA/ASIA; EA/PRCM; AID/SER/ASHA; CU/EA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SEDU  
SUBJ: AID ASSISTANCE TO LINGNAN COLLEGE

REF: STATE 195895

1. I WAS ASTOUNDED TO HEAR OUT OF THE BLUE FROM A. CONSTANT-  
TINO OF SER/ASHA THAT A GRANT OF \$1.5 MILLION HAS BEEN GIVEN  
TO THE CHINESE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND MEDICAL FOUNDATION,  
INC. WHOSE ADDRESS IS 303 WEST 66TH STREET, APT 19HE,  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN  
AUDITORIUM COMPLEX AT LINGNAN COLLEGE IN HONG KONG. POST  
HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN DECISION TO GIVE THIS GRANT  
IN ANYWAY. IT COULD PRESENT SOME SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS  
PROBLEMS AND WILL HAVE A BAD EFFECT ON THE CONSULATE  
GENERAL'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
HERE AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WITH WHOM WE GENERALLY  
DISCUSS OUR GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY HONG KONG  
ORGANIZATION. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE RECEIVED COUNTLESS  
REQUESTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR HELP  
AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO VERY FEW  
OF THESE AND EVEN THEN IN A MODEST WAY. SUDDENLY TO HAVE  
THIS RELATIVELY ENORMOUS SUM GIVEN BEHIND OUR BACKS TO A  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 10225 241026Z

SINGLE HIGH SCHOOL/JUNIOR COLLEGE AT THE VERY LEAST WILL  
RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO THE USG'S COMMON SENSE AND RATIONAL  
SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG. IT DOES NOT  
OF COURSE FIT IN WITH ANY OF OUR COUNTRY OBJECTIVES AS  
ESTABLISHED BY VARIOUS COUNTRY PLANS.

2. BECAUSE OF THESE PR PROBLEMS, I HAVE ASKED CONSTANTINO

TO RESTRICT PUBLICITY AS IT RELATES TO THE USG AND HE HAS AGREED. HE WILL TRY TO GET THE LINGNAN BOARD HERE TO SOFT-PEDAL THE GRANT. HE WILL HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY, I FEAR, SINCE A RECEPTION IS BEING GIVEN IN HIS HONOR TO CELEBRATE THIS WINDFALL.

3. ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT THERE ARE OTHER PROJECTS MORE WORTHY OF AMERICAN SUPPORT, IF WE HAD BEEN ASKED WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT HAVE RECOMMEND THIS ONE AT ALL. LINGNAN IS ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL TO WHICH RECENTLY HAVE BEEN ADDED TWO POST-SECONDARY GRADES. JUDGING FROM THE SCHOOL'S PRESENT CONDITION, IT LACKS FULL-HEARTED SUPPORT FROM THE WEALTHY CHINESE WHO EASILY COULD HAVE AFFORDED TO PAY FOR THIS KIND OF PROJECT THEMSELVES. ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS GRANT, THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT WAS MADE I.E. LACK OF COORDINATION WITH THE POST, SEEMING HASTE AND NO REAL CONNECTION WITH EITHER NEED OR US OBJECTIVES, LEAD ME TO FEEL THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO DEFEND. I CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE CALLED UPON TO DO SO.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CONSTRUCTION, GRANTS, SCHOOLS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AID  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 195895  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1506959  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AID ASSISTANCE TO LINGNAN COLLEGE  
**TAGS:** SEDU, EAID, HK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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